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ABSTRACT

Research has characterized Turkish culture as very authoritarian in terms of family attitudes. To determine if any of the cultural differences in authoritarian personality scores are due to differences in language or measuring instruments rather than cultural differences in personaltiy traits, university students from the United States and Turkey were compared on three scales measuring authoritarian personality, i.e., the Rokeach Dogmatism Scale, the F-Scale, and the A-Scale. The students were divided into three groups: T/E which attended a Turkish university with classes taught in English; T/T which attended a Turkish university with all classes taught in Turkish; and A/E which attended a midwestern university in the United States. Results showed a clear inter-cultural difference in authoritarian personality characteristics: differences were due to disparities between the A/E and T/T cultural language groups. The American culture group displayed a significantly lower level of authoritarianism compared to a higher level in the Turkish culture group. The findings suggest the effect of measurement instruments on inter-cultural differences in inter-measure comparisons, indicating a response format effect on subject self-ratings of personality charateristics. (JAC)

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Comparative Studies of Authoritarian-Personality Characteristics Across Culture, Language and Methods

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Kagitcibasi (1970) found Turkish culture was very authoritarian concerning family attitudes but that this was tempered by a great deal of affection shown to children. "The lower reliabilities of the a priori authoritarian family structure scale are due to the confounding of the affection and control factors, subsequently differentiated through cluster analysis. These clusters represent two seperate dimensions of family structure namely, restrictiveness-permissiveness and warmth-hostility." (Kagitcibasi, 1970, p. 450). These dimensions were confounded in the original authoritarian personality study (Adorno, et.al., 1950). She also found that the Turkish culture fostered very strong patriotic attitudes. In her 1970 study of F-scale score differences between Turkish and American high school students she removed the questions concerning the family and patriotism. This accounted in part for her finding of no difference in F-scale scores between the cultures. She placed the F-scale questions concerning family and patriotism in a new scale which she developed measuring the authoritarianism of the culture. She found that the Turkish culture is very authoritarian as did Bradburn (1963). This cast doubt on the whole concept of the authoritarian personality since the authoritarian personality is supposed to be derived from authoritarian family structures and authoritarian cultures.

The purpose of this research was to determine whether the large differences in scores on the F-scale found in studies both previous to and after Kagitcibasi (Bradburn, 1963) (Kinnis, 1977) were due to cultural differences in personality characteristics or due to differences in language and/or structure of measuring instruments.

Subjects: Three groups of urban university students were sampled from the United States and Turkey: The first Turkish/English (T/E) sample consisted of 78 Turkish students majoring in Business and Social Sciences who attended a Turkish University where all courses were taught in English by a mixed faculty of Turkish and American professors, the second Turkish/Turkish (T/T) sample consisted of 62 Turkish students also majoring in Business and Social Sciences at a traditional Turkish University where all classes were in Turkish by Turkish professors. The third American/English (A/E) sample consisted of 357 students in a U. S. Midwestern University majoring in Business, Social Sciences and Engineering.

Measures: Each of the three samples was administered three personality scales on authoritarian characteristics. They were: Rokeach's (1960) Dogmatism scale (D scale), the standard F-scale (Adorno et al., 1950), and a multiple choice format of the F-scale called the A-scale constructed by the first author (Neel, 1977). For the T/E and A/E subjects, these scales were in English, whereas for the T/T subjects, the scales were first translated into Turkish and were subjected to an assessment of their functional equivalence by Turkish bilingual scholars educated in both Turkey and America. These scales were then administered to a preliminary sample of graduate students who took the scales in both English and Turkish. The rank order correlations for the three scales between languages ranged from the high 80's to the low 90's.

Results and Discussion: For each cultural group the composite scores on each scale were first obtained, and used for inter-group comparisons through one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). These results are presented in Table 1. Within-group correlations were also obtained across the three measures (Table 2).

In addition, the means and standard deviations of individual items on each measure were also computed for each cultural group (Table 3). T-tests were computed between groups and scales.

Inter-culture and language comparisons resulted in two significant differences on both the Dogmatism and F-scales (Table 1).

A further analysis of group composite scores shows that these differences are due to disparities between the A/E and T/T culture/language groups (Table 3). The differences across language and culture groups for the A scale was not significant.

Place Table 1 about here

Within-group correlations between the three measures indicated the following: (a) for the T/E group, the correlation between D and F scales was statistically significant ($r = .577$; $p < .05$). (b) for the T/T group, the correlation between D and F scales was .493 ($p < .001$), between A and D Scales was .272 ($p < .001$), and between A and F scales was .684 ($p < .001$). (c) For the A/E group, the correlations were all significant beyond the .001 level ($r = .391$ between scales D and F, .308 between scales A and D, and .698 between scales A and F).

Place Table 2 about here

The significant correlations across the three scales for both the T/T and A/E groups seem to indicate the fact that the three scales are measuring the same authoritarian characteristics. On the other hand, for the T/E group, the

insignificant correlations of A scale with both D and F scales seem to indicate a possible effect of English language and (Western culture) on a receiving culture (Turkish culture). To substantiate this finding, inter-culture comparisons for each measure as well as inter-scale comparisons within each culture were conducted on the data given in Table 3.

Place Table 3 about here

Two patterns of results were identified to be consistent with those found in intergroup comparisons on overall composite scores in Table 1. First, the level of authoritarian personality characteristics was in the hierarchically increasing order of A/E, T/E and T/T on both D and F measures, on the A scale the order was T/T, T/E, A/E. Between-language comparisons (T/E vs. T/T) are not significant. This finding is incongruous with the findings on self-conceptions of the two Turkish groups (Tzeng, Neel and Landis, 1981). The combination of two Turkish groups (T/T and T/E) against A/E on the A scale was significant ($p < .05$), demonstrating a cultural difference, A/E being more authoritarian on the A scale.

Second, within group comparisons across the three measures indicate that Scales D and F are not different from each other in either the composite scores (Table 1) or the means of scale items (Table 3). However, the A measure behaves differently from D and F for the two Turkish culture groups ($p < .01$). For the A/E group, D, F and A measures are almost undifferentiable. The present results clearly suggest the effect of measurement instruments on inter-cultural differences in inter-measure comparisons. This indicates a response format effect (agreer bias or acquiescence set) on subject self-ratings of personality characteristics.

In increasing order the level of authoritarian personality characteristics on both D and F measures A/E, T/E and T/T groups has several implications. First, active communications with the external world will definitely facilitate one's understanding of other peoples. Second, a knowledge of other peoples and their languages will induce a change of self-conceptions and behavioral intentions. Third, as industrialization increases around the world, objective cultural differences will be more rapidly diminished than the subjective cultural differences as indicated in the study by Tzeng, Neel & Landis (1981). In order to balance the disproportional "progresses" behavior objective and subjective cultures, social and behavioral scientists should put more effort into studying the nature and dynamics of culture changes through inter-cultural interactions.

Both D and F scales function in a similar fashion across the three language culture groups. However, the A scale in multiple choice format behaves differently— no between-cultural differentiation on the composite scores, but significant differences in between-measure comparisons for both the T/E and T/T groups. In addition it yields an insignificant relationship with either D or F for the T/E group; but a significant difference between the American and Turkish cultures. Although the present result suggests a response bias in the D and F scales, inter-culture difference in the response format may indeed reflect the difference in authoritarian personality characteristics as stated by Gage, Levitt, and Stone (1957). The A scale which has no response bias shows Americans as being more authoritarian than Turks. The A scale results support Kagitcibasi (1970). This study suggests that her results were not due to family structure or patriotism in the Turkish culture but due to the greater response format of agreer bias by Turks to the F scale.

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Table 1

Cross-group comparisons on Measures

(ANOVA).

Culture Groups

	T/E (N=78)	T/T (N=62)	A/E (N=357)	P Level
D	65.75	68.89	55.16	.001
F	90.24	96.84	88.13	.002
A	69.81	67.30	70.09	N.S.

TABLE 2

Significant correlation between measures

		D - Scale	F-Scale
	D Scale		
T/E	F Scale	.577* * *	
	A Scale		
	D		
T/T	F	.493* * *	
	A	.272* *	.684* * *
	D		
A/E	F	.391* * *	
	A	.308* * *	.698* * *

P = * <.05 ** <.01 *** <.001

TABLE 3

Within Scale Item Mean Values & Standard Deviations

Culture Groups		Item Mean	Item Stand Dev.
	D	3.35	.59
T/E	F	3.30	.71
	A	2.90	.37
	D	3.46	.65
T/T	F	3.45	.67
	A	2.80	.614
	D	2.80	1.03
A/E	F	3.12	.68
	A	2.92	.40